

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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STEPS TAKEN TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF AUSTRIAN IMPRISONED IN ITALY. In its meeting on September 25, the Austrian Cabinet dealt with a report submitted by Foreign Minister Leopold Figl on the conviction of Egon Mayr, an Austrian citizen, by the Assizes in Bolzano. An employe of the Austrian Federal Railroads, Mayr was found guilty of trying to distribute a leaflet as he was passing through South Tyrol on a holiday trip. The leaflet demanded that the case of the South Tyrol be brought before the UN and that a plebiscite be held in the area. The text of the leaflet was taken almost wholly from an Austrian newspaper article. Mayr was sentenced to three years imprisonment, an extremely hard judgement, it is widely held, which rallied Austrian public opinion to his support. The Cabinet instructed the Foreign Minister to take the steps necessary for ensuring the release of the condemned man at the earliest possible date.

INTERVENTION BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER. Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs Leopold Figl recently received Italian Ambassador Angelo Corrias and set forth the view of the Austrian Government in the case of Egon Mayr, as agreed upon in the Cabinet decision of September 25. Minister Figl requested the Italian envoy to report to the Italian Government on the Austrian position. Simultaneously, Austrian Ambassador to Italy Loewenthal-Chlumetzky, having been recently recalled from Rome, left by plane for the Italian capital bearing similar instructions.

CABINET HEARS REPORT ON SOUTH TYROL. At the Cabinet meeting of October 4, Foreign Minister Figl made a detailed report on questions connected with the implementation and execution of the Paris Agreement on South Tyrol. He also called the Cabinet's attention to the contents of a reply, drafted in response to an invitation from Italian quarters in July 1956, summarizing the issues at stake.

The Cabinet took cognizance of the report and approved a draft of the note under discussion, which, in its final form will be transmitted to the Italian Ambassador in Vienna.

COMPOSITION OF AUSTRIAN DELEGATION TO U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY. At the same session, Foreign Minister Figl also reported to the October 4 Cabinet meeting on the composition of the Austrian delegation to the U.N. General Assembly in New York, which will begin on Nov. 12, 1956. At the Assembly, every delegation must be represented in the seven General Assembly Commissions

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AN APPEAL TO REASON. The principal subject of a recent radio address by Chancellor Julius Raab was the problem of South Tyrol. "An incomprehensibly severe sentence against an Austrian citizen and a speech by a member of the Italian Government had lead to a series of highly undesirable polemics," the Chancellor stated; he expressed his conviction, however, a solution would be found to the question of South Tyrol:

(Continued on page 8)

PARLIAMENT'S ATTENTION FOCUSED ON BUDGET.

Under the chairmanship of Dr. Felix Hurdes, President of Parliament, the Steering Committee met on September 28 to deal with the working schedule of Parliament during the coming months. The Federal President is expected to convene Parliament on October 20 for the fall session of its eighth legislative period. The first meeting is expected to take place on October 24. The following session, on October 26, will be devoted to the presentation of the 1957 budget and to the budget address of the Finance Minister. In a later session, tentatively scheduled for October 30, the Federal budget will be given its first reading. Lastly, in a meeting on November 7, all draft laws submitted to the full house by that date will come up for debate.

The Finance and Budget Committee is expected to begin its deliberations of the budget on November 8. The budget debate before the full house will probably get under way at the beginning of December.

CABINET AGREES ON BUDGET. Addressing the Cabinet meeting of Oct. 4, Minister of Finance Kamitz submitted a report on the results to date of preliminary discussions on the draft of the Federal budget for 1957. The Cabinet took note of the report and authorized the Minister to complete the draft budget in accordance with the terms of reference provided by the report.

The total volume of expenditures envisaged in the draft budget for 1957 will amount to 31.5 billion schillings (the Austrian schilling is currently quoted at approximately 25 to the U.S. dollar - Ed.). A contingency budget is to be drawn up for the purpose of meeting the requirements of departments for which no funds are yet available under the above-mentioned budget. The contingency budget will be subject to a limit of approximately 2.5 billion schillings. Projected expenditures listed in the contingency budget will be effected to the extent that increased revenue is available.

NO LETUP IN THE STREAM OF REFUGEES. To date, the Austrian Federal Government has made a total of 140 million dollars available for aid to refugees. A total of 300,000 persons have been naturalized since the end of the war, including 154,000 persons of undefined citizenship.

The question of assistance to those refugees who do not wish to remain in Austria is a particular problem. Because of the relaxation of Iron Curtain security measures, people from the eastern countries and Yugoslavia are continually crossing the Austrian border. During August 1956, there were 1,050 such border crossings. The total number of refugees in Austria is increasing by approximately 10,000 per year.

"CONGRESS OF EUROPEAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS" MEETS IN VIENNA. Over 120 delegates from 15 countries met in the Main Auditorium of the Academy of Sciences in Vienna for the opening ceremony on September 28 of the sixth annual meeting of "Congress the European A sixth annual meeting of the "Congress of European American Associations" (CEAA). The purpose of the Congress is to provide a common meeting ground for all European-American societies. At an official function in honor of the delegates, U.S. Ambassador to Austria Llewelyn Thompson decorated the chairman of the association, Mr. Frank O. Darvall (England) with the Order of Benjamin Franklin.

NEW SOUTHERN RAILROAD STATION OPENED IN VIENNA - ELECTRIFICATION OF RAILROADS PROGRESSING. The new Vienna Southern Railroad Station (see picture) was opened to traffic recently with facilities to handle electrically-operated trains. The electrification of the Austrian Federal Railroads, which has already progressed greatly in the western part of the country (the line is electrified all the way from Switzerland to Vienna, for example), has been extended southwards as far as Gloggnitz at the foot of the Semmering Pass (about 3,000 ft.) which leads into Styria. It was on this line that the first electric locomotive pulled out of the new Southern Station to inaugurate operations at the terminal.

The new building (in the picture, the front of the main concourse is seen at the left) is a substitute for two old

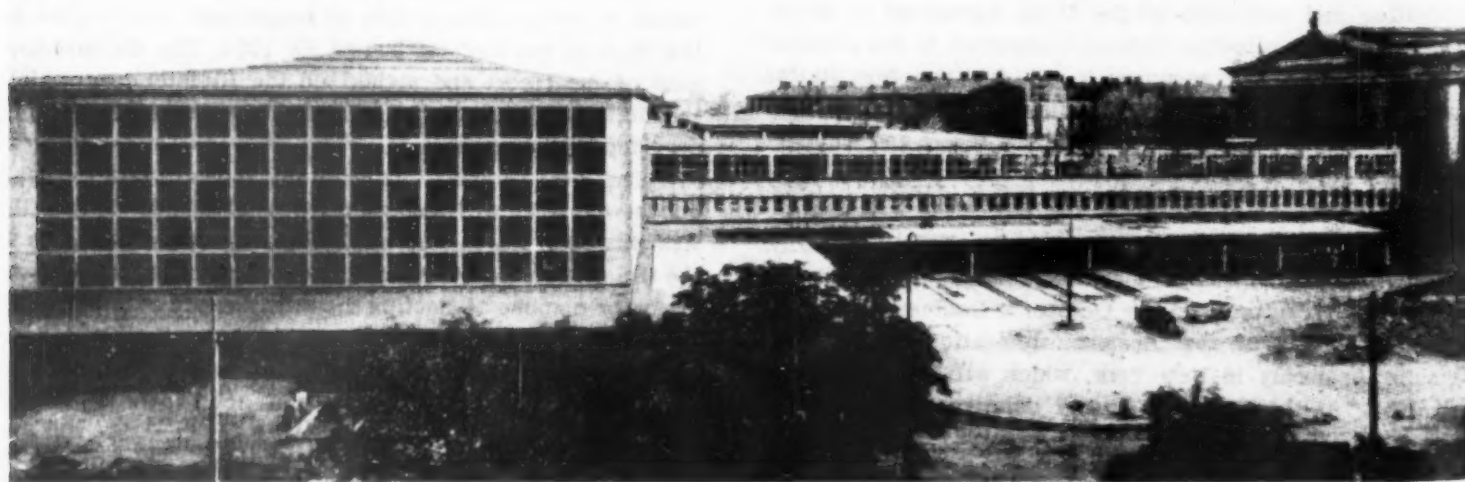
PRICE-WAGE GAP ENDANGERS STABILITY. In Austria, as in many other countries of West Europe, there has been a pronounced decrease in the rate of economic expansion. In many fields, especially in the building trades, boom conditions continue to prevail, carrying with them shortages of labor and capital goods. On the other hand, the vehicle industry, sections of the chemical industry and the electrical industry have had to curtail production and discharge workers. These signs of weakening are apparently the result of a gradual saturation or of shifting consumer demand. Current differences between prices and wages, it has been pointed out in responsible quarters, require effective economic policy measures to ensure financial stability.

In all probability, the rate of increase in the national product during the present year will amount to a maximum of 4 per cent. (It was 10 per cent last year.) Industrial production during the second quarter of 1956 was still 4 per cent higher than in the corresponding quarter of 1955. There has been no change in the favorable economic conditions prevailing in the raw materials industries. However, the increase in production is now proceeding at a slow rate because demand has largely caught up with supply. Capital goods industries have in many cases carried out still further

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stations, the Southern and the Eastern, both of which suffered heavy damage during the war. (The old Southern Station can be seen in the right background, as can the wing of the new structure extending right up to the front of the old building. The latter will be gradually abandoned as the new building is put into operation.)

Some innovations have gone into the design of the new station. The arrival and departure sections have been completely separated to facilitate the movement of passengers and to ease the parking problem in front of the station. The levels of the eastern and southern tracks being separated by some 30 feet, it has been necessary to provide for an upper and a lower level connected by escalators and freight elevators, and a shopping center has been provided for the convenience of passengers.



RAAB EXPECTS INCREASED DOLLAR-AREA IMPORTS TO HAVE MODIFYING EFFECT ON HIGH PRICES. "I am expecting some degree of pressure to be exerted on prices by a measure facilitating imports, especially from the dollar area, which is to be adopted in the near future," declared Austrian Chancellor Julius Raab at the recent opening of the Graz Fair. "Of course, this will result in more difficult competitive conditions for the Austrian economy. However, it will also increase our ability to compete."

In a sweeping survey of the problems besetting the Austrian economy, Chancellor Raab recalled: "For years we have been concentrating on quantity and have been happy that favorable export developments extended to nearly every branch of the economy and that higher wage levels, higher profits, and especially extensive public investments have increased the demand for industrial goods of all kinds, with the result that a quicker rhythm was injected into our economic life.

"It was the prevalent belief in earlier decades that such periods of upsurge were necessarily followed sooner or later by a period of recession. In the past, the transition from a buyer's market to a seller's market was generally the prelude to stagnation and to a recession.

"Only with stable prices and wages can we draw up a balanced budget and with this budget carry out those aims which we have set for ourselves," declared Herr Raab. "Stability of price and wage levels must not be interpreted as rigid adherence to wages currently in effect. I have always been in sympathy with the demand of employees for a fair share of the social product, and it is only proper that an increase in the social product, and especially an increase in the productivity of labor, should benefit the workers. The prerequisite for any increase in productivity is, on the one hand, that employers make available ever-improved mechanical installations and equipment and continually improve production and distribution procedures, and, on the other hand, that the employees cooperate in a spirit of understanding and goodwill and in the realization that their own interests are at stake. Accordingly, the fruits of greater productivity should be distributed in three equal parts: one to the employers, one to the employees and one to the public; as far as the public is concerned, benefits should accrue in the form of lower prices. Unfortunately, nothing whatever has been heard from either side concerning lower prices as a result of increased productivity. For this reason, it is all the more important that we halt the undeniable trend toward higher prices," the Chancellor concluded.

U.N. Delegation (C't'd from page 1)

which embrace all member states and which meet on a parallel basis. Since Austria is participating in a General Assembly for the first time, the Cabinet decided to place Foreign Minister Figl in charge of the Austrian delegation, which will include Bruno Kreisky and Franz Gschnitzer, Undersecretaries of State for Foreign Affairs, as well as members of Parliament, the Permanent Austrian representative at the United Nations and top officials of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

PROBLEMS OF AUSTRIAN ECONOMIC POLICY. By applying currency and credit control measures, Austrian economic policy makers placed an effective brake on boom tendencies during the year 1955. As a result of the recent activation of the payments balance, however, the controls on credit policy are losing their effectiveness. Under these circumstances, caution again seems to be called for in currency and credit operations, along with a supporting financial policy of suitable type. In 1955, just as the economic situation was threatening to become critical, total expenditures of the Federal Government were 1 billion schillings higher than current revenue (The Austrian schilling is currently quoted at approximately 25 to the dollar - ED.). The deficit was covered from the cash reserve accumulated during previous years. This year the Federal Government used up the last of its cash reserves. The difficult cash situation is all the more noteworthy in view of the fact that public taxes are continuing to yield high amounts of revenue; gross receipts from taxes during the first half of 1956, amounting to 10,243 million schillings, were 12 per cent higher than during the same period of the previous year.

On the other hand, the Federal Government must meet increased expenditures during 1957. It still has to finance the burdens arising out of the State Treaty, and the establishment of an army is absorbing substantial amounts. Only part of the additional outlay can be covered by current increases in revenue.

Basically, the problem of the 1957 budget lies in the fact that in an economy characterized by full employment and a relatively slight rate of expansion, additional demands on the social product can be satisfied only at the cost of additional expenditures or at the expense of other sections of the population. However, in the shifting price-wage situation now prevailing, there is reason to doubt the wisdom of providing for an even greater deficit in the national budget which, short of unforeseen increases in revenue, could be covered only by means of credit operations.

Price-Wage Gap (C't'd from page 2)

increases in production and have extensive export orders on their books. Among the consumer goods industries, there was substantial production of foodstuffs, tobacco, shoes and leather goods. In the textile industry, production during the second quarter of 1956 was 5 per cent higher than during the previous year. The fact, however, that branches of the electrical and chemical industries engaged in the production of consumer goods have had to cut down production, offsets some of these advances.

FIRST CALL UP: 282 "MISSING." According to an announcement by the Ministry of National Defense, 282 out of a total of 40,000 Austrians subject to appear for military duty have failed to comply with their obligation. The persons in question will now have to answer a second call.

"EUROPE HOUSE" IN VIENNA SUBURB. Last Spring saw the formation of the "Austrian Europe House Society," whose aim it is to transform the Miller-Aichholz Castle in Huetteldorf, at the edge of the Vienna Woods, into a European

center ideal for an international meeting place. According to the plans of the sponsors, the Castle would be used for meetings, seminars, lectures and exhibitions. The baroque structure, designed by Fischer von Erlach and surrounded by a large park, would provide the appropriate setting for the purpose envisaged. The plans call for construction on the premises of a hotel, a restaurant, a building housing a movie hall and a library, homes for students and young workers, sports installations and an open-air stage.

CORNERSTONE LAID FOR SECOND "EUROPEAN VILLAGE." On Sunday, September 23, in Hoerbranz near Bregenz, the cornerstone was laid for the second "European Village" sponsored by "Aid for the Homeless from Foreign Countries," an organization founded by Father Pire, Belgian Dominican priest, with the aim of providing new homes in congenial surroundings for European refugees.

40 PER CENT DOLLAR LIBERALIZATION. Continuing its deliberations on October 4, the Cabinet approved an extension of the liberalization measures applying with respect to the United States and Canada from the previous 8 per cent to an approximate 40 percent. The liberalization list, which will go into effect on October 15, includes the following classes of products, inter alia: cocoa beans, ores, cotton (liberalized effective Jan. 1, 1957), wool, synthetic rubber, skins and hides, various types of leather, iron and steel, ferro-alloys, metal sheets and plates, unrefined metals and alloys thereof, petroleum, steam machinery, steam turbines, farm machinery, textile machinery, electric motors, television sets, tape recorders, electronic microscopes, X-ray tubes, electric heating equipment for homes, vehicle components, locomotives, cameras, typewriters and calculating machines, various chemical products, books and printed materials.

EPU SURPLUS MAINTAINED IN SEPTEMBER. The final accounting of the European Payments Union (EPU) for September showed that Austria again registered a surplus, this time in the amount of 579,000 clearance dollars. Austria has shown a surplus for every month since June, although that for September was definitely smaller than those of the preceding months.

UTILIZATION OF THE WORLD BANK LOAN. Of the two loans to Austria recently approved by the World Bank, the first, in the amount of 21 million dollars, will be used for developing the Ybbs-Persenbeug (Danube) power project. The second, in the amount of 10 million dollars, will go for expanding two thermal power plants at Voltsberg (Styria) and Sankt Andrae (Carinthia). The repayment period for the 21-million loan is 25 years, amortization to begin on January 15, 1960. The 10 million dollar loan is to be paid back within a period of 20 years, beginning on September 1, 1959. The rate of interest on both loans is 5 per cent.

AUSTRIA TO RECEIVE 14.5 MILLION DOLLARS IN LOANS. The agreement signed between the United States and Austria on February 7, 1956, relative to purchases of American farm surpluses includes a provision that long-term loans totalling 14.5 million dollars are to be made available to the Austrian economy out of the counterpart funds accruing from such purchases. The loan agreement with the Export-Import Bank implementing this credit provision was signed by Austrian Ambassador Gruber in Washington on September 28, 1956.

NEW DANUBE POWER PLANT. Surveying for a Danube power plant in Upper Austria, which has been going on for more than a year, has now been completed. The plant is to be erected near Aschach. By the end of 1956, all other preliminary work, including geographical surveys of the soil will have been completed. During October, experimental working models will be set up in the Vienna Technical Museum where some of the technical problems involved will be studied. According to current plans, the Aschach plant is expected to be larger and to have a greater capacity than the Danube power plants at Jochenstein and Ybbs-Persenbeug, and to produce more than 1.3 million KWH annually. It is not anticipated at present, however, that construction will begin before 1959.

FINANCING PROGRAM FOR THE POWER INDUSTRY. The Austrian power industry submitted its program for financing further developments up to the year 1960 during the negotiations on the World Bank loan. The program has now been approved. It provides for total investments of 240 million dollars. Of this amount, 115 million are to be raised by the power companies from their own resources, while the remaining 127 million must be covered from outside sources. In addition, 26 million dollars are available from ERP funds. For 1957 and 1959, there are plans for power loans in Austria, the first of these to have a nominal value of 23 million dollars. In 1958 a foreign loan is to be contracted for, but without participation by the World Bank.

Except for the World Bank, the Austrian power industry will have to rely, at least in the coming months, on the domestic power industry. As a promising avenue for the 23 million dollar domestic loan planned for 1957, financial circles are pointing to the proceeds from the 4-per cent power loan of 1955, which also involved a subscription corresponding to this amount, although it would be necessary to increase the actual amount of the loan by the volume of cash conversion differential.

ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION INCREASED DURING AUGUST. Production of electricity during August amounted to 916 KWH as compared with 880.6 million KWH in July and 791 million in August 1955. Of the 916 million KWH, hydroelectric power plants accounted for 830.8 million (as against 824.0 and 703.4 million) and thermoelectric plants for 85.2 million (as against 56.6 and 87.6 million). Imports of current

during the period were 6.5 million KWH (as against 8.8 and exports of 278.5 million.) Total consumption, including losses, was 640.2 million KWH, as compared with 617 million in July. Consumption was approximately 8 per cent higher than in August 1955, while production increased by 15.8 per cent. (Figures in parentheses are for July 1956 and August 1955, respectively - Ed.).

DEVELOPMENT OF SCHWECHAT AIRPORT. It has been decided to develop Schwechat Airport, near Vienna, into an international air terminus of first rank. Work on the program, which will cost approximately 5 million dollars, is to start immediately. Among other things, Schwechat is to have a 2-mile concrete runway, which means that the field will be suitable for the take-off and landing of the jet planes which will fly the future non-stop route between Vienna and New York. As a result, Schwechat will be one of the first European airfields having a concrete runway of such proportions.

The present runway at Schwechat is $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles long. It will be necessary not only to extend it by another kilometer (.62 miles) but also to reinforce both the runway and its taxi strip to a considerable degree, since the take-off weight of jet passenger planes, such as the Boeing 707 and the Douglas DC-8, amounts to as much as 140 tons. After completion of the work on its runway, Schwechat will be in the category of first-class international airports. This means that the non-stop flights from Vienna to New York will be inaugurated during the Spring of 1959. The flying time will be approximately seven hours.

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It is expected that the improvement of Schwechat Airport will be completed by the end of 1958. The same applies to the new air terminal. The framework of the latter building, which will feature extensive observation decks and every conceivable comfort, is expected to be completed by the end of next year.

Vienna will be available for jet service by the 1959 season. This is important advance information because international flight schedules for 1959 will be drawn up as early as the spring of 1958.

CHURCH LOAN OVERSUBSCRIBED. The first section of the 2 million dollar Church Reconstruction Loan was oversubscribed by the fifth day after the opening of subscriptions. The Ministry of Finance had approved a request for raising the amount of the loan by another 750,000 dollars, mainly for the purpose of being able to satisfy applications coming in from smaller subscription centers in the provinces. With the subscription at 70 million schillings in a single week the Church Reconstruction Loan has been successful beyond all expectations.

LIVELY INTEREST SHOWN IN NEW "CONFERENCE CAR." In our previous issue, we reported on the novel "conference car," a bus duplicating for the road the comfort of air travel and serving a variety of purposes from business trips to pleasure tours. (For the interior layout of the bus, see picture.) It has now been learned that the owners, the



Austrian Postal Administration, have already received numerous inquiries, both locally and from abroad, concerning the services provided by the new bus.

AUSTRIA'S HOUSING REQUIREMENTS. The housing situation in Austria is still an unsolved problem, as shown by the following break-down of dwelling units required in the individual Laender:

Vienna	62,741
Lower Austria	2,688
Burgenland	---
Upper Austria	24,522
Salzburg	8,224
Styria	13,549
Carinthia	4,473
Tyrol	6,857
Vorarlberg	---

The waiting list is headed by the national capital and the following Land capitals, arranged in the order of absolute housing requirements:

Vienna	62,741	Salzburg (Salzburg)	8,224
Linz (Upper Austria)	20,241	Innsbruck (Tyrol)	6,857
Graz (Styria)	12,298	Klagenfurt (Carinthia)	3,207

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

VIENNA OCTET TO APPEAR HERE NEXT JANUARY. An American tour has been announced of the Vienna Octet, a group fairly recently formed; it played its first concert at the Lucerne Festival in 1947. Scoring an immediate success, it went on a number of tours, covering the better part of Europe. Performances at the Salzburg, Edinburgh and Bordeaux Festivals followed. The group is made up from the first chair men of the Vienna Philharmonic, notably Willi Boskowsky, the concertmaster.

The U.S. tour will include a number of appearances in New York City — at the Frick Museum on January 13, at Columbia University's McMillan Theatre on January 30, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on February 21, at the Peoples' Symphony Concerts on February 23, at the Concert Society of New York in Carnegie Recital Hall on Feb. 24 and at the Walt Whitman Auditorium of Brooklyn College on March 1. Other performances will be given in 18 of the 48 states, plus Toronto, Canada and Havana, Cuba.

VIENNA STRING SYMPHONY TO TOUR NORTH AMERICA.

The Vienna String Symphony under Kurt Rapf has a North American tour scheduled for the end of this year. Starting out at Sydney, Nova Scotia, on November 5, the series will end at Long Beach, Long Island, on December 15. Apart from appearances in several Canadian cities, the tour will include performances in 14 of the 48 states. The programs will include the Bach Double Violin Concerto, Mozart's "Alcandro lo confesso" aria, Genio's aria from "Orfeo e Euridice" by Haydn, five Minuets and six Trios by Schubert and the Strauss waltz "Tales from the Vienna Woods." An all-Mozart program is also scheduled which will feature "Eine kleine Nachtmusik." Soloists will be Rosl Schwaiger, soprano, and Eduard Melkus, violinist.

BREGENZ FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES DRAMA COMPETITION.

The management of the Bregenz Festival has recently announced that it is sponsoring a competition for dramatic plays. The competition is open to citizens of any country, writing in the language of their choice. The first prize will be 20,000 schillings and the second 10,000 schillings (about 800 and 400 dollars respectively).

Judges responsible for selecting the prize-winning plays will be drawn from representatives of the Bregenz Festival community and the Vienna Burgtheater, among others.

"AUSTRIA PEAK" IN THE HIMALAYAS. The name "Austria Peak", given by the President of the Republic of Pakistan to a hitherto unnamed Himalayan peak of 26,000 feet, will commemorate the first scaling of the mountain by the Austrian Himalaya-Karakorum expedition, whose major exploits have been reported in our last issue. (Austria Peak is not to be confused with Gasherbrum 2, a peak of over 26,000 feet which has also been scaled first by the Austrian expedition.)

THE RETURN OF THE "DEUTSCHMEISTER" BAND.

Columbia Artists Management of New York have arranged for a United States tour by a group of Vienna musicians and singers. The highlight of this musical event will be the appearances of the Deutschmeister Band under the direction of Julius Hermann. The present leader of the band was a member of the same ensemble when, at the beginning of the century, it captivated Americans during its appearance at the Chicago World Fair under the baton of Karl Michael Ziehrer, the Austrian composer and conductor. To be known as "Vienna on Parade," the series of musical programs will include 60 to 80 concerts, opening in New York in January 1958. This will be followed by appearances in Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cleveland and Chicago as well as in California.

In addition to Julius Hermann and his group, the tour will include appearances by Austrian operetta stars, a group of "Choir Boys from the Vienna Woods," the Jaro Schmid Schrammel Quartet and Toni Karas, the composer of the "Harry Lime Theme" ("The Third Man"). The purpose of the program is to give an idea of the lighter side of Austrian music, most particularly of original Viennese music.

YOUTH TO COMPETE IN THE ARTS. The celebration of the "Eighth Austrian Youth Culture Week" in Tyrol will take place in Innsbruck from May 26 to June 2, 1957. Any Austrian men or women born after December 31, 1926, are entitled to participate in the cultural competitions. The final date for submission of literary and musical works is October 1, 1956, and that for graphic arts February 1, 1957. The works received will be judged by qualified juries for each separate field involved, and the works selected will be publicized by means of lectures, performances or exhibitions. It is also planned to present some of them on radio programs.

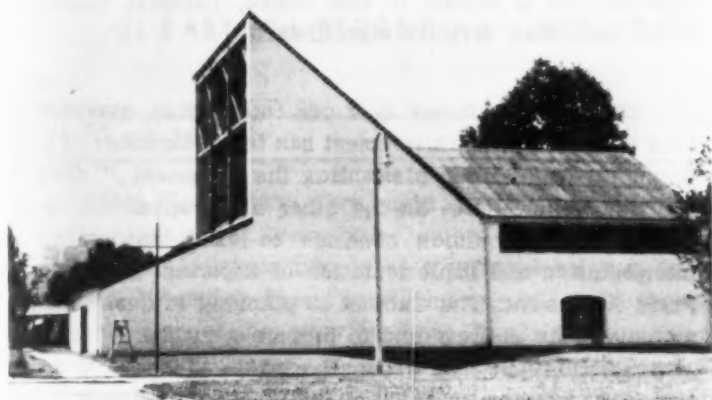
VIENNA OPERA TO PERFORM AT BRUSSELS WORLD FAIR.

Among the features of the Brussels World Fair in 1958 will be a cultural program of international character in which all the nations of the world will participate. The Fair management has reached an agreement providing for guest appearances by the Vienna State Opera. Following the Opera's decision not to go on tour during the present season, as previously reported in "Austrian Information," the Brussels performance will probably represent the first foreign appearances of the Vienna State Opera with Herbert Karajan conducting. The ensemble will be under the direction of Karajan and Karl Boehm and will present four operas, of which Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro," Richard Strauss' "Ariadne auf Naxos" and Alban Berg's "Wozzeck" have already been selected. Karajan will also conduct a Brussels performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony by the Vienna Philharmonic and the State Opera Chorus.

SIG ARNO RETURNS TO VIENNA STAGE. Sig Arno, absent from the Vienna stage for about 20 years, most of which he spent in the U.S., will again be seen there in "Wonderful Town". Arno made a successful second debut in Vienna in the part of Jim, the gangster, in "Kiss me, Kate".

THE NEW CHURCH IN SALZBURG-PARSCH

Consecrated in the Parsch district of Salzburg, the church is the most modern ecclesiastical structure in Austria. A design of striking simplicity, it is widely compared with



The new church. Lower right: one of the two stained windows designed by Josef Mikl to illuminate the vaulted area. The old barn doors still serve as an entrance.

the new churches of Audincourt, Ronchamp, Vence and Pforzheim. The Catholic church in Parsch represents a remodelling of a large farm known as the "Weichselbaumhof," dating back to the year 998. In the process of conversion, the basic form of the farm -- consisting of a farmhouse and an adjoining stable -- was retained. Construction of the church was in the hands of three young Austrian architects: Johannes Spalt (36), Fritz Kurrent (25) and Wilhelm Holzbauer (25). Holzbauer, who recently won a grant to go to Boston, was one of the survivors of the Andrea Doria catastrophe.



The old Weichselbaumhof, referred to as the "Muenchhausen farm" in a document predating 998. The basic design of the farmhouse and the old vaulted shed have been retained.

Among the artists whose services were obtained for decorating the new structure were Fritz Wotruba, who designed the relief over the entrance door, Oskar Kokoschka, who was responsible for the leaves of the east entrance doors, and Josef Mikl, who designed the glass windows.

The outstanding feature of the remodelled building is the new roof, transforming, as it were, the spiritual content



The altar is a simple marble table. Located in this highest and brightest part of the church, in addition to the altar, are the baptismal font, a wooden ambo, the Eternal Light, the two communion benches and the carved wooden cross over the altar.

of the structure with one bold stroke. All light entering the building falls through the large glass window on to the altar, which is located in the center of the church. The church itself is entered through the very low arched section, dating from the 18th century and hitherto used as a cow shed. It is illuminated on its two sides by brightly colored glass windows, decorated with abstract designs of Josef Mikl. The old barn doors have been left as the entrance doors to the church. The unified effect of the structure has been enhanced by dispensing with additional windows or with anything resembling a tower. The church bells are located in a low bell cage near the entrance door.



The main entrance, protected by a projecting roof of wood. The doors are of poured concrete, moving on ball-bearings. Also of poured concrete, incidently, is Fritz Wotruba's semirelief sculpture on the forward gable-end a representation of Jesus on the cross.

ERNST DEUTSCH TO PORTRAY "NATHAN THE WISE" AT VIENNA FESTIVAL. During the 1957 Vienna Festival, Karl Heinz Stroux, General Manager of the Duesseldorf Schauspielhaus, will stage a performance of Lessing's "Nathan the Wise" at the Theater in der Josefstadt. The title role will be played by Ernst Deutsch.

AUSTRIA TO WAGE WAR ON HORROR COMICS. The Austrian Youth Book Club, as part of an investigation of the "Current Problems of Young People's Literature," is planning to present to Austrian Education Minister Drimmel a million signatures of parents, teachers, child psychologists and educational leaders petitioning for a stronger law against the printing and sale of trash literature. The investigation at the Ministry of Education will also look into the flooding of the youth literature market with trash publications and smutty novels, as well as with comic books imported from the United States.

Appeal to Reason (C't'd f. page 1)

"In September 1946, an agreement had been signed in Paris between Italy and Austria on the future treatment of the South Tyrolese minority. At that time, there were two

principal reasons which motivated Austria's signing of the Agreement: On the one hand, an effort to settle a dispute with a neighboring state on a friendly basis and, on the other, the hope that, in a spirit of European solidarity, the future would bring forth a new era of collaboration between European nations. As a result, it was hoped, national boundaries would lose their divisive significance.

"We should not, nor is it our intention to, overlook the fact that the Italian Government has taken a number of significant steps toward implementing the Agreement," declared the Chancellor. "But on the other hand, apparently basic differences of opinion continue to exist concerning the interpretation and implementation of important points in the Paris Agreement. The Cabinet is planning to deal with this problem in its entirety and to prepare a number of suitable proposals. I trust that we shall be able to arrive at a constructive solution to the problem in conjunction with the Italian Government. Then, at last, the region beyond the Brenner will finally become what the two contracting parties to the Paris Agreement had hoped for and expected: a connecting link between our two states."

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